PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Decemb 12. 1670.

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Extracts of two Letters, written by the Ingenious Mr. Adam Martindale *to the Publiſher from* Rotherton *in* Chelhire, *Novemb.* 12. *and Nov.* 26. 1670. *concerning the Diſcovery of a* Rock of Natural Salt *in that Country.*

A Gentleman of good account and reputation aſſures me, that in our County there is lately found out a great rarity, *viz.* a *Rock* of *Natural Salt,* from which iſſues a vigorous ſharp Brine, beyond any of the Springs made uſe

of in our Salt-works; and this not nigh any River or great brook, as all our Salt-ſprings in this Country are. I ſhould ſcarce have adventur'd to write this to you, had I not believed, that this diſcovery might perhaps prove uſefull towards the filling up of ſome blank corner of a Page in the *Hiſtory* of *Nature*. However I am perſwaded, that ſuch Ingenuity, as poſſeſſeth the *R. Society*, cannot but pardon my boldneſs, ariſing from a zeal to ſerve ſuch Benefactors to Humane nature. And if you deſire to know any more particulars concerning this matter, a Letter of yours directed * * * ſhall command me to view the place, and there to inquire after the circumſtances, and communicate them to you, &c.

This being ſo acceptable an offer, the Author of the Letter was deſired accordingly, to give himſelf the trouble of viewing the place himſelf: Which deſire he not only hath very obligingly complied with, but alſo imparted what he learned in that view, as follows;

I am juſt now return'd from viſiting and viewing the Salt-work, and find things according to my Friends Relation: Only whereas I underſtood him, that no running water came near it, I now perceive, that he ſpoke of none that was conſiderable, or none that might annoy it. For there runs near it (at leaſt in the Winter ſeaſon) a ſmall rindle (or gutter rather;) but it is wholly free from all danger of overflowing; which threatens all other Salt-pits in this County, every great ſhower, through the vicinity of Rivers.

The Rock of Salt, by the relation of the Work-men, is between 33, and 34. yards diſtant from the Surface of the Earth; about 30 whereof are already digged; and they hope to be at the Flagg, which covers the Salt-rock, about three weeks hence. I doubt, it will be ſeveral months, before I can accommodate you with a parcel of it; that which the auger brought up, being long ſince diſpoſed of, and the work-men not daring to remove the Flagg, till the Frame be finiſh't and well ſetled for the ſecuring of the work from the circumjacent earth. The Overſeer hath promiſed to furniſh me with a

piece

piece of the Rock for your uſe; as alſo to ſignifie to me the time, when they intend to uncover it; that, if poſſible, we may make ſome ſuch Experiments, as you have intimated. That parcel of Natural Salt, which the inſtrument brought up, divers that ſaw it aſſure me, was as hard as *Allom*, and as pure; and when pulverized, became an Excellent, fine and ſharp Salt. The firſt diſcoverer of it was one *John Jackſon* of *Halton*, about *Lady-day* laſt, as he was ſearching for Coals on the behalf of the Lord of the Soil, *William Marbury* of *Marbury* Eſquire. This is all I can at preſent ſerve you in; only I am conſulting diligent and experienced perſons concerning the practiſe of the Agriculture of this Country, and hope ere long to give you ſuch an account as I can; though I cannot hope to diſcover any thing worth the notice of that truly *Royal Society*. It will be enough to ſatisfie my ambition, if I may but be continued in your thoughts as a Well-wiſher to ſuch Noble perſons and deſigns. In confidence whereof I ſubſcribe, &c.

An Accompt given by a Florentin Patrician, call'd Jo. Battiſta Donius, *concerning a way of reſtoring the Salubrity of the Country about* Rome: *Extracted out of the ninth* Italian Giornale de Letterati; *and Engliſh't as follows.*

THe Campagne of *Rome*, (which is that Tract of Land, that is deſtitute of Inhabitants and Trees, and extends it ſelf for many miles, taking in *Latium*, and part of the antient *Sabins*, and of *Tuſcany*,) would be of great uſe to the State, and of ſubſiſtence to the people, if it could be Inhabited without that great danger to health, which now 'tis ſo much noted and fear'd for; Phyſitians eſteeming, that from the Summer-Solſtice unto the Autumnal Equinox, the Air of it is ſo bad and noxious, that it would be great raſhneſs to dwell there: A malignity, which in former Ages it was free from, at leaſt, in that of *Cicero*, who, as appears by his Letters